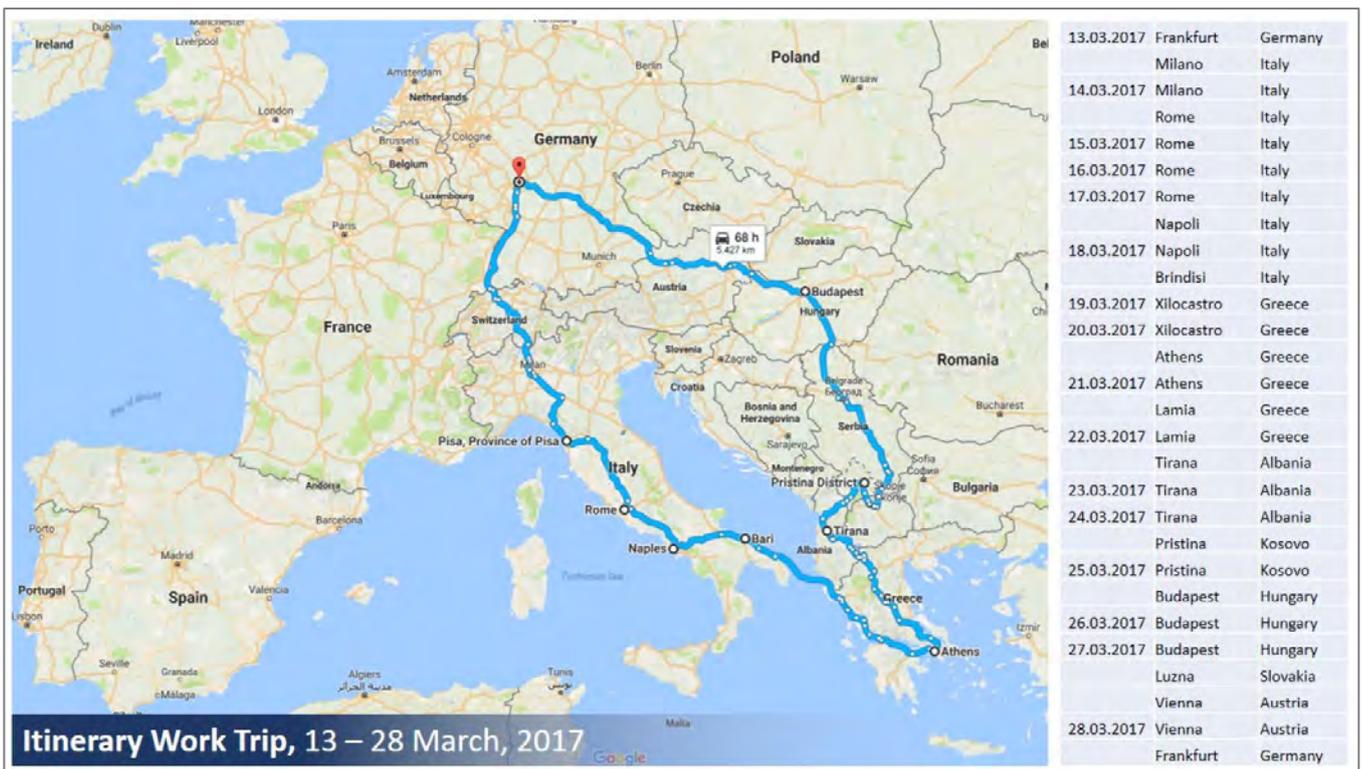


Visiting South and South Eastern Europe



By Jack Corley

Shortly after the conclusion of the European Cheon Il Guk Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic, on 12th March, I embarked, together with European Headquarters Director Peter Staudinger, on a journey of more than 5,400 kilometers (more than 3,300 miles), passing through or visiting 12 countries of Europe. The purpose of the trip was to meet with brothers and sisters who were unable to participate in the C.I.G. assembly and to connect with Ambassadors for Peace in the local countries and communities.



We set out from the Neumuehle Training Center at Bad Camberg, Germany, on 13th March, with our first stop in Milan, Italy to meet with several leaders there. This was followed by a visit to

Rome to attend a special WFWP-sponsored program in the Italian House of Representatives which was supported by graduates of recent programs of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP).



We also met with members of the Roman FFWPU community at the workshop site at Colle Mattia. We then moved on to Naples, meeting with Umberto and Hitomi Capone and members of the Neapolitan community. Leaving Naples, we crossed southern Italy to the port city of Brindisi, where we boarded a ferry for a 17-hour trip across the Aegean Sea to the Greek port of Patras.

On 20th March, we arrived in Athens, and on the following day we visited the home of native member Yanis Porfyris, his

Austrian wife, Heidi, and their son, Digenis. National Leader to Greece Russell Gough joined us for lunch. Traveling north on 21st March on our way to Albania, we stopped outside Athens to meet with a blessed couple, George and Hara Gevezis.



Russell Gough, Yanis, Heidi and Digenis Porfyris
Athens, Greece, 21 March, 2017



George Gavezis, Hara and Hariklia Theotokatou
Athens, Greece, 21 March, 2017



5 Day Divine Principle Workshop
Mullet, Albania, 23 March, 2017



Wonmo Pyongae Scholarship 2017 Recipients
Tirana, Albania, 23 March, 2017

The visit to Pristina, Kosovo, on the 24th likewise was packed full with meetings and visits with Ambassadors for Peace, government ministers, the head of the opposition political party, and members of the local Pristina FFWPU community.

From our arrival in Tirana, Albania, on 22nd March until our departure for Kosovo two days later, we experienced a whirlwind of meetings and other activities. This included a meeting with the former president of Albania, Alfred Moisiu; lunch with Ambassadors for Peace; a courtesy call with the leader of a large Islamic community; a meeting with 60 guests at a five-day Divine Principle seminar at the Albanian training center at Mullit; and an evening with many local brothers and sisters at the Tirana headquarters. During that meeting, I had the privilege to present the Wonmo Pyongae Scholarship Certificates to six young Albanian brothers and sisters. Albania, being a Strategic Nation, is showing great progress in many fields of activity.



Kosovo Peace Council
Pristina, Kosovo, 24 March, 2017



Hon. Alfred Moisiu, Former President of Albania, 2002-2007
Tirana, Albania, 23 March, 2017



H.E. Jakub Krasniqi, Former Chairman of the Assembly
Pristina, Kosovo, 24 March, 2017



Grandfather Hajji Baba Mond (Edmond Brahimaj)
Tirana, Albania, 23 March, 2017



H.E. Emanuel Demaj, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Pristina, Kosovo, 24 March, 2017



H.E. Visar Ymeri, President of the Self-Determination Movement
Pristina, Kosovo, 24 March, 2017



Kosovo Community
Pristina, Kosovo, 24 March, 2017

On 25th March, we left Kosovo and in one day drove around 900 kilometers (almost 560 miles) through Macedonia and Serbia to arrive in Budapest, Hungary. The next day we attended the opening ceremony of the new Hungarian Peace Embassy (which replaces the original Peace Embassy). The new building is a wonderful upgrade and will serve the local community in its spiritual and outreach work very well. European Special Emissaries Dr. No Hi Pak and Dr. Lan Young Moon participated together with Sub-Regional Leader Rainer Fuchs and Hungarian National Leaders Tibor and Susanna Krebs in presiding over the Opening Ceremony.



Inauguration of the Hungarian Peace Embassy
Budapest, Hungary, 26 March, 2017



DONE
Luzna, Slovakia, 27 March, 2017

On 27th March, we continued to the Luzhna workshop site in Slovakia for a meeting with ESGD leaders and an opportunity to greet the participants of the DONE program before moving on to Vienna, Austria, for a meeting on the following morning with

FFWPU-Austria Executive Vice President Elisabeth Cook. Finally, on 28th March, we ended our journey back in Germany at the workshop site at Bad Camberg.

Along with meetings and official events, we had the opportunity to visit several famous and historic sites, including the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Vatican, the Colosseum in Rome, the ruins of Pompeii near Naples, the Acropolis in Athens and other famous sites from ancient Greece, as well as the Olympic Stadium built for the first modern Olympics in 1896.



Pisa, Italy
14 March, 2017



Vatican
15 March, 2017



Scavi di Pompei
18 March, 2017



Colosseum
Rome, Italy, 17 March, 2017



Panathenaic Stadium
Athens, Greece, 20 March, 2017

During this trip, I once more came to a new appreciation of the faithful devotion of brothers and sisters in the region. I felt that, despite many challenges to living a life of faith in an increasingly secularized world, our European brothers and sisters are beacons of hope in their respective communities and will be honored by history for their love and devotion to True Parents and the heavenly providence at this time.

In addition, within the space of several days in a relatively small geographic area of the world, I could appreciate the enormous expanse of history from the ancient Greeks to the Roman period and into the Christian sphere, all of which represent a cross-section of history that forms the foundation of us as Europeans. We, as followers of True Parents, are the luckiest generation, who have come to understand our Heavenly Parent's final providence. Let us recognize our historic position and work together to build Cheon Il Guk in Europe.